

The invention claimed is:

1 1. A method for displaying in real time the level of the power control signal at a base
2 station in a telecommunication network comprising a plurality of microcells controlled by the
3 base station, and at least one mobile terminal served by the microcells, the method comprising
4 obtaining the current level of the power control signal and
5 displaying the current level of the power control signal to show in real time the level of
6 the power control signal relative to a threshold level where a less than optimum operating
7 condition can occur in the operation of the network.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of displaying the current value of the power
2 control signal comprises a line, the length of which represents the current level of the power
3 control signal, and identifying a location along the path of the line which marks where a less than
4 optimum operating condition can occur in the operation of the network.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein identifying a location comprises a first zone to
2 identify a lower power threshold level, a second zone to represent an intermediate and desirable
3 power level and a third zone to identify an upper power threshold level.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein identifying a location comprises a first fixed zone to
2 identify a lower power threshold level, a second fixed zone to identify an upper power threshold
3 level.

1 5. A method of claim 4, wherein the line that displays the real time level of the power
2 control signal appears as a first color when displaying desired power control levels and a second
3 color when displaying power control levels that are not desired.

1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the line that displays the real time level of the power
2 control signal appears as a two part line wherein the first part is a continuous line the length of
3 which represents the actual real time level of the power control signal and the second part is a
4 broken line which increases in length to indicate that the level of the power control signal is
5 increasing or decreases in length to indicate that the level of the power control signal is
6 decreasing.

1 7. A method of displaying in real time the level of the power control signals a base station
2 in a telecommunication network comprising a plurality of microcells controlled by the base
3 station and at least one mobile terminal served by the microcells, the method comprising
4 obtaining the current level of the power control signal, storing the obtained current level
5 of the power control signal,
6 obtaining at a subsequent time, a second current level of the power control signal,
7 comparing the second current level of the power control signal with the stored level of
8 the power control signal to determine if the level of the power control signal is increasing,
9 decreasing or remaining unchanged,
10 displaying the second current level of the power control signal to show the real time
11 level of the power control signal, and
12 indicating whether the level of the power control signal is increasing, decreasing or
13 remaining unchanged.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of displaying the level of the power control
2 signal comprises a line, the length of which represents the real time level of the power control
3 signal, and
4 setting a threshold location to which the line can approach, the location marking a level
5 beyond which a less than optimum operating condition can occur in the operation of the network.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of setting a threshold location comprises
2 setting a first threshold location to identify a lower power threshold level and a second threshold
3 location to identify an upper power threshold level.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the line that displays the real time level of the power
2 control signal is a first color when the level of the power control signal is between the lower and
3 upper power threshold levels and a second color when the level of the power control signal is
4 below the lower threshold level or above the upper threshold level.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the line that displays the real time level of the power
2 control signal is a line having two parts where the first part is a continuous line the length of
3 which represents the actual real time level of the power control signal and the second part is a
4 dotted line which slowly increases and rapidly decreases in length from the end of the first part to
5 indicate that the level of the power control signal is increasing.

- 1 12. The method of claim 9, wherein the line that displays the real time level of the power
2 control signal is a line having two parts where the first part is a continuous line the length of
3 which represents the actual real time level of the power control signal and the second part is a
4 dotted line which slowly decreases and rapidly increases in length from the end of the first part to
5 indicate that the level of the power control signal is decreasing.

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